

# Workplace Connection



November/December 2003

Volume 13, Issue 6

## County Employees Show Giving Spirit



Supervisor Don Knabe  
2004 Charitable  
Giving Chair

As the County's 2003 Charitable Giving Campaign came to a close, Southern Californians watched as one of the worst wildfires in state history laid devastation throughout the southland.

As always, County employees did more than just watch helplessly as homes went down one after another. They wanted to know how they could help. The County's Charitable Giving Program coordinators received numerous calls from employees

wanting to support the families affected by the wildfires throughout Los Angeles County and neighboring counties.

"On behalf of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, I wish to thank our employees for their continued generosity," stated Supervisor Don Knabe, 2004

Charitable Giving Chair. "County employees consistently show their giving spirit by raising valuable funds to help provide health and human care services to families in need."



Pictured is an L.A. County Firefighter battling wildfire.

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## Cops Have Heroes, Too

Intense heat, lack of humidity and high winds combined to produce the dangerous fire conditions that Southern Californians endured only a few months ago. The resulting wildfires caused one of the worst disasters in the state's history. More than 3,500 homes were destroyed and over 750,000 acres of land were burned. As the fires spread, and new ones ignited, Los Angeles County firefighters rose to the challenge. At risk to their own personal safety, facing fierce winds and raging walls of fire, their heroic efforts prevented even further destruction.

In recognition of their efforts, Sheriff Lee Baca, joined by L.A. County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman,



Sheriff Lee Baca places "Cops have Heroes, too" bumper sticker on Sheriff's vehicle, while Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman (standing right) and a Sheriff's Deputy look on.

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## Burke Sets up Storm Victims Fund

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke has created a \$250,000 Flood Relief Fund for the residents of the Willowbrook unincorporated area. After receiving numerous calls for assistance from residents in the area, which surrounds King/Drew Medical Center, resulting from the flooding on November 13, 2003, the Supervisor allocated Community Development Block Grant Funds for this Second District relief fund.

Nearly 130 homes and nine schools and businesses were severely damaged on November 13 when more than five inches of rain fell in a two-hour period. The fund will help pay for repairs that presently pose a health and safety hazard to residents. Supervisor Burke intended this assistance to be extended to all victims, both within and outside of the unincorporated boundaries, which include Watts, Willowbrook, Compton, Lynwood and South Gate.

Supervisor Burke has asked the entire community to donate supplies, carpet or funds to assist in the repair of any home that sustained flood damage. For more information regarding donations, please call Thomas White, Community Development Foundation/2003 Flood Relief Fund, at (323) 890-7125.



Supervisor Yvonne  
Brathwaite Burke  
Second District

## ETC SPOTLIGHT MARSHA O'NEAL



Marsha O'Neal

During the eight years Marsha O'Neal has been working as an Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) for Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, she has become totally addicted to clean-air. "I can't have a conversation without marketing clean-air," Marsha says, as she enthusiastically talks about the ridesharing program at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center. "People say hello to me and I ask them what have they done for clean-air lately?"

Marsha went on to say that marketing ridesharing is one of the assignments that she really feels strongly about. "It gives me the chance to be involved and make a difference in the amount of pollutants that make it into the atmosphere," she says. Marsha emphasized that when she assists an employee to find an alternative commute method to driving alone, whether it's a long or short commute to the workplace, she gets a feeling of accomplishment.

As an ETC, Marsha contends that there are times when the job can be extremely challenging because getting commuters to change from drive-alones to ridesharers is not easy. However, she quickly adds that the rewards far outweigh the challenges of getting drive-alones to change their method of commuting.

Marsha noted that good marketing strategies go a long way in getting the job done. She suggests that one of the most important marketing strategies that ETCs should use is to remain highly visible at their work site. "I use frequent e-mail blasts, high visibility bulletin boards to post clean-air messages and get the word out that I am available to assist ridesharers," states Marsha. "Our annual rideshare fair is used to put a heavy emphasis on educating employees on alternate means of transportation. Then I network with other ETCs for promotional ideas, and use every transportation incentive available, such as: Club Metro, SANBAG, RCTC-Advantage Rideshare."

As you can see, Marsha takes her ETC business seriously. Thank you Marsha, and we appreciate your efforts in pursuing the clean-air goal.

## Success In Savings New Year's Resolution 2004

The new year is always a great time for setting resolutions that will yield success. This year, how about



planning to invest in your future? Purchasing U.S. Savings Bonds could put this resolution into action either through a payroll deduction or one-time investment/gift purchase.

Savings Bonds earn rates of return that are competitive with other forms of investments and are backed by the full credit of the United States. You have the advantage to invest in two types of Savings Bonds, the traditional market-based Series EE bonds are sold at half of face value for as little as \$25 for a \$50 bond or the new inflation indexed Series I Bond at full face value for as little as \$50. Both offer the security to invest for your family's future educational needs and financial requirements.

For the latest information on Savings Bonds such as current interest rates, tax benefits and procedures for redeeming your bonds, visit the CAO's website at <http://cao.co.la.ca.us/workplace/savingsbonds.htm> and click on the U.S. Treasury link.

Start your new year off right and begin planning for your future! To purchase U.S. Savings Bonds, contact your Departmental Savings Bond Coordinator or call the CAO Office of Workplace Programs, at (213) 974-2523.

## Antonovich and County Assessor Provide Property Tax Relief



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District

Supervisor Michael Antonovich, along with County Assessor Rick Auerbach, recently teamed up and took action aimed at providing tax relief to property owners in areas impacted by the devastating fires which have destroyed or severely damaged homes and structures in the County of Los Angeles.

"Property owners facing such extensive loss caused by these fires are due appropriate adjustment of assessments and deserve tax relief to help them recover from the damage they suffered," said

Supervisor Antonovich.

Property owners whose property has been damaged or destroyed should contact the Office of the Assessor by telephone or over the internet. Information is available at a special fire hotline at (626) 258-6081. Reassessment forms can be obtained by calling or by logging on to <http://lacountyassessor.com>.

"Faced with such destruction, government agencies must and will act quickly and effectively to help property owners deal with this tragedy in as simple and understandable a way as possible," stated Auerbach. "Our web page has added a Fire Link which makes available the downloading of a form that is used to apply for misfortune and calamity reassessment of structures."



Rick Auerbach  
County Assessor

# Alternative Fuel Puts Solo Drivers in Carpool Lane

Ever been stuck in traffic and watched as the cars in the carpool lane zoom by? Did you know that its possible to utilize the carpool lane as a solo driver? That's right, alternative fuel vehicles have allowed more than 5,500 California drivers to do the unthinkable and pull into carpool lanes alone and cruise along as if they were two.

The mix of fleet and privately owned vehicles, such as the compressed natural gas (CNG) powered Ford Crown Victoria and Honda Civic, qualify for the program that reward drivers who give up their gas guzzlers and give green power a try.

The Los Angeles region saw its first Stage 1 smog alert this summer which is a set back after more than a decade of improved air quality. Vehicles account for 75

percent of the pollutants that cause smog in Los Angeles, and passenger cars, trucks and SUVs make up 25 percent of that. Transportation funds are at risk if smog levels do not improve in coming years.

With 24 million cars on the roads in California, only a tiny fraction of drivers are taking advantage of this carpool lane perk. Currently, dozens of models of qualifying cars and trucks -- electric, natural gas or propane powered zero emission vehicles -- help reduce the smog producing pollutants that contribute to the region's air quality problems and get you into the carpool lane. To see a complete listing of the 2003/04 Cleaner Car Buyers Guide go to the California Air Resources Board home page at [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov).



This CNG Honda can put you into the carpool lane.

## Club Metro Rewards County Ridesharers

It's always nice to win something, but doubly nice when you win because you are doing something special like ridesharing for clean air. That's what happened with Carolyn Chadwick, a Deputy Sheriff working at Twin Towers, who carpools 36 miles per day, and Bienvenido Manalansan of the Department of Public Social Services, Canoga Park office, who carpools 26 miles. Carolyn and Bienvenido, each received a call from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) notifying them that they were winners of \$100 gift cards, from either Best Buy, Ralph's or Target, as part of the MTA's Club Metro program.

So what is Club Metro? Club Metro is an MTA incentive program that rewards ridesharers with a Rewards Coupon Booklet that provides tremendous savings at a variety of restaurants and entertainment venues throughout Southern California. In addition, as a Club Metro member, ridesharers are automatically entered into monthly and quarterly drawings for \$100 gift cards – Carolyn and Bienvenido are great examples that County employees rideshare and WIN!

Ridesharing means carpooling, vanpooling, telecommuting and commuting by bus, train, bike or walking to the worksite. If you are interested in becoming a Club Metro member or would like more information on ridesharing, contact your departmental Employee Transportation Coordinator or call the CAO Office of Workplace Programs at (213) 974-1182.



Club Metro winner Bienvenido Manalansan(right) receives certificate and congratulations from DPSS Administrative Deputy Isabelle Maggio.

*Be a  
Club Metro  
winner...  
Rideshare!*



Edie Howard (right), MTA, presents Club Metro gift certificate to Deputy Javier Rodriguez, Twin Towers ETC, who is accepting for Carolyn Chadwick

# ExperienceLA.com



Roger Snoble,  
CEO  
Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Authority

Los Angeles and traffic go together like “Hollywood and movie stars.” Why? Probably because when one thinks of Los Angeles and places to see, the word “traffic” comes immediately into play. The determination of what time you are leaving has a direct correlation on how long it takes to get anywhere in Los Angeles.

Hopefully, thanks to a new website, [www.ExperienceLA.com](http://www.ExperienceLA.com), people's thoughts will switch from traffic to public transit when it comes to seeing L.A. The web site is designed to help residents and visitors discover and experience the diverse culture of the Greater Los Angeles area, but not by car, but by public transit. In fact, all sites and attractions listed at [www.ExperienceLA.com](http://www.ExperienceLA.com) are accessible via public transit.

This innovative web site was launched in conjunction with the opening of the Metro Gold Line in July 2003. As development for the Experience LA web site got under way, the project's importance quickly grew as it embraced three key goals: promotion of Los Angeles area culture; encouragement of the use of public transit; and stimulation of economic activity related to cultural tourism.

Since current Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) promotional strategies revolve around destinations, the ExperienceLA.com web site fits nicely with the overall MTA marketing plans. “By providing web-based transit information and tying it to specific cultural attractions in this unique way, Experience LA will increase use of Los Angeles County's public transit system for cultural tourism, as well as for festivals, conventions, celebrations, and Staples Center events,” stated Roger Snoble, CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Though the web site is just beginning its promotional phase and is beginning to pick up steam, the overall goal remains the same: to help both residents and visitors realize that, thanks to the region's world-class rail and rapid bus system, they can experience the cultural wonders of the L.A. area—without a car.



# Cops Have Heroes, Too

Continued from page 1

unveiled a new bumper sticker honoring the firefighters at a recent ceremony. The bumper stickers, which will be placed on Sheriff's vehicles, states: “Cops Have Heroes, Too – We Salute Our Firefighters.”

To coincide with the bumper stickers, Sheriff Baca recognized L.A. County Firefighter's extraordinary service in a letter honoring them for their bravery. “Your courage, perseverance, and commitment to duty personify the true meaning of heroic service,” said Sheriff Baca. “Your personal sacrifice for the welfare and safety of those affected by the fires demonstrated the finest example of public service...We salute you as our heroes.”

**Cops have Heroes, too-  
We Salute  
Our Firefighters!**

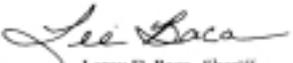
To Our Firefighters:

During the past few weeks, horrific wild fires throughout Southern California have resulted in the worst disaster in our State's history. This tragedy resulted in the deaths of twenty-two people, including one of your own, the destruction of more than 3,500 homes, and the devastation of over 750,000 acres of land.

In spite of this terrible loss, it could have been worse. Your heroic efforts prevented further loss. Throughout California and neighboring states, you valiantly rose to the challenge, and without regard for your personal safety, fought those fires. You battled under what at times must have seemed like insurmountable odds to stop the destruction. Your courage, perseverance, and commitment to duty personify the true meaning of heroic service. Your personal sacrifice for the welfare and safety of those affected by the fires demonstrated the finest example of public service.

While we provided a support role in battling these fires, we observed your efforts on the front lines armed with water hoses, working the hand crews, making the precision water drops and battling flames and heat. We in the law enforcement profession have historically had a bond with our brothers and sisters in the fire service. We have never been more proud of that bond than we are today. We salute you as our heroes.

 Los Angeles County  
**Sheriff's Department**

  
Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff

# Metro School Pool

Carpooling isn't just for working adults anymore. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is launching a free ridematching service to help parents team up to get their children to school and back. The program is beneficial to parents who are looking for a safe alternative option for their children due to scheduling issues. It also benefits the southland's Clean Air efforts.

The Metro School Pool program effort is being coordinated through local schools.

Parents interested in participating should urge their schools to contact the MTA's Metro Commute Services at (213) 922-2811 to learn more about the program.



# Sheriff Unveils Community Resource Vehicle

Reaching out to the community, the Walnut/Diamond Bar Sheriff's Station has found a way to provide better service through the use of a new mobile resource vehicle. The station unveiled a Community Resource Vehicle to serve the Rowland Heights, Diamond Bar and Walnut areas. Currently, it is the only vehicle of its kind in the Sheriff's Department.

Supervisor Don Knabe, in support of this innovative project, donated \$100,000 for the Community Resource Vehicle and the necessary equipment. "There is nothing better than community outreach when it comes to public safety," stated Supervisor Knabe, whose district includes the Walnut/Diamond Bar area.

The 34-foot long converted mobile home is large enough to accommodate 25 people making it useful for training, Neighborhood Watch meetings, community events or as a mobile command post in tactical and emergency situations. The vehicle is equipped to fill all of these needs and to remain in the field for extended periods of time. Equipment includes first aid supplies, restroom facilities, a small refrigerator and cabinets, which can be used as writing boards.



Community Resource Vehicle is ready to hit the road.

To maintain communications with the Sheriff's station and headquarters, and the County Emergency Operations Center, the resource vehicle has electronic equipment, including mobile digital terminals, computers, communications radio, cell phones and short wave radio capability.

The concept of a "Resource Vehicle" provided a solution to some problems residents had expressed to Lieutenant Mitch McMahon, the originator of the idea. In the past, residents were hesitant to offer their homes as meeting sites so Lieutenant McMahon felt the Sheriff could better serve the community if they were able to bring the meeting place to the residents.

The huge tan and green vehicle with Sheriff's markings is a natural draw and has already been put to good use, says Deputy Joe Lomonaco. During a recent barricade, the vehicle was brought in to serve as a command base. It has also been used for community events and Neighborhood Watch meetings. The residents like the convenience of the mobile home and that they can see their dollars at work.

## The Wonderful World of ... nano

Thinking about where to take the kids over Winter Break? Well look no further, beginning in December 2003, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's (LACMA) Boone Children's Gallery is presenting "nano," an exhibition merging the arts and the atom, free to the public. This exciting new approach to the exploration of the world of nanoscience combines art, science, culture and technology into a total aesthetic experience!

Nanoscience is an emerging area of science, which concerns itself with the study of materials that have very small dimensions. Nano, a unit of measurement that is one billionth of a meter and too small to be seen by the naked eye, is life's building blocks which are now on display.

The exhibit is designed to transform the visitor's viewpoint to nanoscale by utilizing modular spaces and technology. Once transformed to nano scale, visitors can see the inner world of cells and molecules and can also "feel" their way around nanoworld. This sensory experience is made possible through the use of a scanning tunneling microscope, a nanoscience tool that uses touch rather than sight as a means of understanding molecules.

Visitors will enjoy the large Inner Cell in the central part of the exhibit. This is a virtual cell-space that contains robotic "atoms," that roam the space, imitating the real physical actions of cells, as well as a projected image of a carbon molecule nicknamed "Buckyball." This molecule can be manipulated and reshaped by visitors using nothing more than shadows.

In the Atomic Manipulation area, visitors have a bird's eye view of the Inner Cell and can even move and actively manipulate individual "atoms." Here, the visitors are also treated to a kaleidoscopic view of the Inner Cell while hearing passages from science fiction narratives. This "fracturing" of vision, combined with oral storytelling, immerses the visitor in a complex of images and thought.

For more information on LACMA visit [www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org). And don't forget, if you don't want to deal with the traffic, LACMA is conveniently accessible by taking the Metro Red Line and one short connector by bus. Just visit [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net) to find the best route and leave the driving to someone else.



Visitors experiencing "Buckyball" at LACMA's nano exhibit.

# AIDS Walk 2003



Pictured are some of the L.A. County walkers showing their spirit at AIDS Walk 2003.

On Sunday, October 19, 2003, County Of Los Angeles employees joined over 25,000 walkers in West Hollywood to support AIDS Walk 2003. The 6.2 mile AIDS Walk began at the Pacific Design Center and ended on San Vicente Blvd. Celebrities participating in the opening ceremony were Jamie Lee Curtis and Eric McCormack (Will & Grace).

This year, County employees from 23 departments participated and raised approximately \$22,000 for AIDS Project Los Angeles and were once again recognized as a "Gold Team" for placing in the top ten for participating teams.

## County Employees Show Giving Spirit

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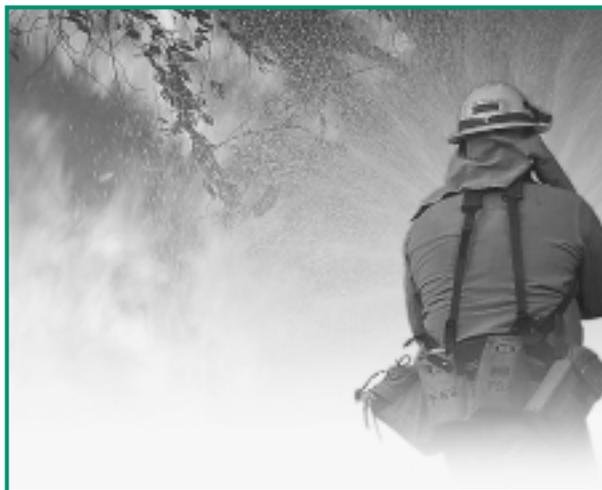
Employees had the opportunity to donate to the American Red Cross fire relief effort through one of the five Charitable Giving Program's Fund Distribution Agency partners: Asian Pacific Community Fund; Brotherhood Crusade; Earth Share of California; United Latino Fund; and United Way of Greater Los Angeles.

During the wildfires, the American Red Cross opened 40 evacuation centers for more than 12,600 residents seeking shelter from the raging fires. These shelters provided much needed blankets, food, emotional support and a temporary place to stay while residents anxiously waited to find out news. The Red Cross estimates that wildfire disaster-related costs were approximately \$6 million. As of November 2003, donations had nearly reached that goal, thanks to the generosity of many, including County employees.

Also, in November, the County's Charitable Giving program had one of its highest payroll deduction sign up months in recent years. Many employees signed up for a monthly deduction donating funds through one of the

campaign partners and directly designating to a charity of their choice. The L.A. County Firefighters Memorial, Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund and the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation were the recipients of the highest donations.

If you are interested in donating to a charity of your choice through the County's Charitable Giving program, contact your departmental coordinator or call the CAO Office of Workplace Programs at (213) 974-2466. Thank you to everyone who donated during this year's campaign.



Pictured is an L.A. County Firefighter attacking a wall of fire.

### Members of the Board



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